

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament, wherein the filament has in cross-section:

a central area and

two wing areas on opposite sides of said central area and integral with said central area, said wing areas being arranged in a diverging orientation, wherein each wing area is defined by opposed faces,

wherein

at the side of the diverging wing areas the central area forms an outwardly protruding bulb, preferably having a face of a curved convex shape, so that said central area forms a protrusion with respect to the adjacent faces of the wing areas, and

at the side remote from the diverging wing areas the central area has a face which is essentially flush at the location of said central area and merges into the adjacent faces of each wing area.

Claim 2. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the filament, preferably the central area, is fortified by one or more reinforcement fibres.

Claim 3. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the central area of the filament has a thickness at least 50%, preferably at least 100%, greater than the thickness of the wing areas, at least of a part of each wing area adjoining said central area.

Claim 4. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the wing areas have a cross-section differing from one another.

Claim 5. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the wings areas each have an essentially straight centre line.

Claim 6. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the wing areas each have a curved centre line.

Claim 7. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the distance between the centre lines of the wing areas is the greatest at the free ends of the wing areas.

Claim 8. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the centre lines of the wing areas – if said centre lines are essentially straight – or imaginary lines interconnecting a centre point of said central area with a point where each of the centre lines intersects the free end of the wing area – if said centre lines are essentially curved - include an angle of less than 170 degrees.

Claim 9. (Original): An artificial turf filament according to claim 8, wherein said angle is between 90 and 170 degrees, preferably between 100 and 150 degrees, most preferably between 100 and 135 degrees.

Claim 10. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the wing areas have a thickness measured at right angles to the associated centre line, and wherein the wing areas each have a thickness which tapers towards the free end of the wing.

Claim 11. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the free end of each wing area has a rounded tip.

Claim 12. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 11, wherein the rounded tip has a radius greater than a part of the wing area adjoining said rounded tip.

Claim 13. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the filament contains at least one synthetic polymer.

Claim 14. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 13, wherein the filament contains polyethylene.

Claim 15. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 2, wherein the one or more reinforcement fibres are polyamide or PBT (polybutylene terephthalate) fibres embedded in polyethylene or another polymer.

Claim 16. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 1, wherein the filament contains an organic material.

Claim 17. (Previously presented): An artificial turf including a plurality of artificial turf filaments according to claim 1.

Claim 18. (Previously presented): An artificial turf having a substrate and a plurality of artificial turf filaments according to claim 1 anchored in the substrate and extending there from.

Claim 19. (Original): An artificial turf according to claim 18, wherein said filaments are injected into the substrate, and wherein the substrate is preferably soil.

Claim 20. (Previously presented): An artificial turf according to claim 18, wherein said substrate is a carpet and said filaments are anchored to said carpet.

Claim 21. (Previously presented): An artificial turf according to claim 18, wherein said artificial further includes a backing for said substrate, said filaments being anchored to said substrate.

Claim 22. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament, wherein the cross-section of the filament has a central area and two wing areas on opposite sides of said central area and integral with said central area, said wing areas being arranged in a diverging orientation.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the filament is fortified by:
the central area of the filament having a thickness greater than the thickness of the wing areas,
and/or
the filament, preferably the central area, containing one or more reinforcement fibres.

Claim 24. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 23, wherein the central area of the filament has a thickness at least 50%, preferably at least 100%, greater than the thickness of the wing areas, at least of a part of each wing area adjoining said central area.

Claim 25. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the wing areas have a cross-section differing from one another.

Claim 26. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the wings areas each have an essentially straight centre line.

Claim 27. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the wing areas each have a curved centre line.

Claim 28. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein said filament has opposed faces, said central area forming a protrusion in one of said faces with respect to the adjoining parts of said face defining the wing areas, the other face being essentially flush at the location of said central area.

Claim 29. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the distance between the centre lines of the wing areas is the greatest at the free ends of the wing areas.

Claim 30. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the centre lines of the wing areas – if said centre lines are essentially straight – or imaginary lines interconnecting a centre point of said central area with a point where each of the centre lines intersects the free end of the wing area – if said centre lines are essentially curved - include an angle of less than 170 degrees.

Claim 31. (Original): An artificial turf filament according to claim 30, wherein said angle is between 90 and 170 degrees, preferably between 100 and 150 degrees, most preferably between 100 and 135 degrees.

Claim 32. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the wing areas have a thickness measured at right angles to the associated centre line, and wherein the wing areas each have a thickness which tapers towards the free end of the wing.

Claim 33. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the free end of each wing area has a rounded tip.

Claim 34. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 33, wherein the rounded tip has a radius greater than a part of the wing area adjoining said rounded tip.

Claim 35. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein each wing area has opposed faces tapering towards the free end of the wing area.

Claim 36. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the central area has – in the direction of a bisector of both centre lines of the wings – a dimension (T) greater than the thickness of the wing areas.

Claim 37. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the filament contains at least one synthetic polymer.

Claim 38. (Original): An artificial turf filament according to claim 37, wherein the one or more polymers are selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon and combinations thereof.

Claim 39. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 23, wherein the one or more reinforcement fibres are polyamide or PBT (polybutylene terephthalate) fibres embedded in polyethylene or another polymer.

Claim 40. (Previously presented): An artificial turf filament according to claim 22, wherein the filament contains an organic material.

Claim 41. (Canceled)

Claim 42. (Previously presented): An artificial turf including a plurality of artificial turf filaments according to claim 22.

Claim 43. (Previously presented): An artificial turf having a substrate and a plurality of artificial turf filaments according to claim 22 anchored in the substrate and extending there from.

Claim 44. (Original): An artificial turf according to claim 43, wherein said filaments are injected into the substrate, and wherein the substrate is preferably soil.

Claim 45. (Previously presented): An artificial turf according to claim 43, wherein said substrate is a carpet and said filaments are anchored to said carpet.

Claim 46. (Previously presented): An artificial turf according to claim 43, wherein said artificial further includes a backing for said substrate, said filaments being anchored to said substrate.

Claim 47. (Currently amended): Bundle of a plurality of artificial turf filaments, wherein artificial turf filaments are held together by one or more wrapping filaments wrapped around said artificial turf filaments, wherein multiple wrapping filaments are wrapped around said artificial turf filaments, and wherein said one or more wrapping filaments are wrapped around said bundle in a helical path, preferably – if multiple wrapping filaments are present – in opposite directions.

Claims 48-49. (Canceled)

Claim 50. (Previously presented): Bundle according to claim 48, wherein the wrapping filaments cross each other at cross points, and are bonded, preferably releasable bonded, to one another at said cross points.

Claim 51. (Previously presented): Bundle according to claim 47, wherein said one or more wrapping filaments are bonded, preferably releasable bonded, to said artificial turf filaments.

Claim 52. (Previously presented): Bundle according to claim 51, wherein said one or more wrapping filaments are synthetic polymer filaments and are bonded to each other and/or to the artificial turf filaments by a thermal bonding process.

Claim 53. (Previously presented): Bundle according to claim 47, wherein said one or more wrapping filaments are releasable bonded so that upon mechanical action, by normal use of a artificial turf containing said bundles and/or by a brushing process applied to said turf, the bonds are released.

Claim 54. (Previously presented): Bundle according to claim 47, wherein said one or more wrapping filaments have a thickness which is less than the thickness of the artificial turf filaments.

Claim 55. (Withdrawn): Method of manufacturing a bundle of a plurality of artificial turf filaments, wherein said multiple artificial turf filaments are held next to one another while one or more wrapping filaments are wrapped around said artificial turf filaments.

Claim 56. (Withdrawn): Method according to claim 55, wherein multiple wrapping filaments are wrapped around the artificial turf filaments, preferably in opposite helical paths such that said wrapping filaments cross each other at cross points.

Claim 57. (Withdrawn): Method according to claim 55, wherein the one or more wrapping filaments are bonded, preferably releasable bonded, to said artificial turf filaments.

Claim 58. (Withdrawn): Method according to claim 57, wherein said one or more wrapping filaments are synthetic polymer filaments and are bonded to each other and/or to the artificial turf filaments by a thermal bonding process.

Claim 59. (Withdrawn): Method according to claim 58, wherein said one or more wrapping filaments are heat treated before wrapping around said artificial turf filaments, so that the surface of the wrapping filament melts and the melted surface is brought against the artificial turf filaments as the one or more wrapping filaments are wrapped around said artificial turf filaments.

Claim 60. (Withdrawn): Method according to claim 59, wherein the artificial turf filaments and the one or more wrapping filaments are subjected to a common heat treatment, the one or more wrapping filaments having a smaller thickness and thus being heated to a higher temperature, so that the surface of the one or more wrapping filaments melts.

Claim 61. (Previously presented): Artificial turf comprising a substrate and a plurality of bundled artificial turf filaments according to claim 47 extending from said substrate.

Claim 62. (Previously presented): Artificial turf comprising a substrate and a plurality of bundled artificial turf filaments according to claim 47 extending from said substrate, wherein said wrapping filaments release from said bundles as a result of normal use of said turf, e.g. by playing soccer, and/or as a result a wrapping filament release treatment applied to said turf after installation of said turf.

Claim 63. (Withdrawn): Method of preparation of an artificial turf according to claim 61, wherein said turf is subjected to a wrapping filaments release treatment effecting the release of the wrapping filaments from the artificial turf filaments.

Claim 64. (Withdrawn): Method of preparation of an artificial turf according to claim 61, wherein - prior to effecting the release of the wrapping filaments – a filling material is deposited between the bundles of artificial turf filaments.

Claim 65. (Withdrawn): Method according to claim 64, wherein said filling material includes rubber particles.

Claim 66. (Withdrawn): Method of production of an artificial turf wherein a plurality of artificial turf filaments are produced and subsequently bundled by one or more wrapping filaments according to claim 47, and wherein the wrapped bundle of filaments is subsequently supplied to a tufting machine which produces the artificial turf containing the filaments.